



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Thirty-third Session of the IOC Executive Council
Paris, 20-30 June 2000

Agenda Item: 4.2.2

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE STORM SURGES PROPOSAL**

The IOC Executive Council at its Thirty-first Session decided to support the project proposal on Storm Surges Reduction in the Northern Part of the Indian Ocean and adopted Resolution EC-XXXI.3. This document presents the progress in the implementation of the Resolution and in the coordination of the project.

The Executive Council will consider the recommendations of the Regional Meeting on the Storm Surges proposal held in New Delhi, India, 22-26 October 1999 and those of IOCINDIO-III held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 20-23 February 2000 for adoption. The Executive Council will identify steps to be taken urgently for the project implementation and necessary fund raising. The Executive Council will provide guidance on the actions to be taken in order to improve coordination of the project between IOC, WMO and IHP of UNESCO, funding agencies and Member States.

The final version of the project proposal is available to the members of the Executive Council as Information Document IOC/INF-1131.

INTRODUCTION

1. Under the initiative of IOC, WMO (World Meteorological Organization) and IHP (International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO), a project proposal on Storm Surge Disaster Reduction in the North Indian Ocean has been prepared in 1998 through a group of international experts led by Prof. T.S. Murthy of Canada. The project covers the countries of Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Pakistan.

REGIONAL MEETING ON STORM SURGE PROPOSAL

2. The proposal was placed before the Thirty-first Session of the Executive Council of IOC, 17-27 November 1998. The Executive Council supported the proposal. The IOC Assembly at its Twentieth Session, 29 June–9 July 1999, was informed that a regional meeting would be convened in New Delhi in October 1999 to discuss the plan of action for the implementation of the project. Accordingly, WMO and IOC jointly convened the regional meeting in New Delhi, India, 22-26 October 1999. The regional meeting was hosted by the Department of Ocean Development, Government of India and was held at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi. The regional meeting was preceded by a Workshop on Storm Surges. While inviting the Member States to participate in the regional meeting, IOC, IHP of UNESCO and WMO had requested the concerned Member States to depute delegates with appropriate brief, both from the Meteorological and Oceanographic Departments for taking decisions in the meeting. The delegates from Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India, participated in the meeting. Unfortunately, IHP of UNESCO did not take part in the meeting.

3. The representatives of Member States discussed at length the mechanism for implementing the regional project and supported the need for a regional project office to be located in New Delhi, India. In order to implement the pre-project activities, the representatives of the Member States decided to have a Pre-Project Manager (PPM) from India. The Government of India accordingly designated Mr. B.N. Krishnamurthy, Adviser at the Department of Ocean Development, Government of India to act as PPM.

4. The representatives of the Member States invited Prof. T.S. Murthy to provide continuous support to the project implementation, and also recommended WMO to act as the Executive Agency. The Member States approved the following plan of action for the pre-project period:

- *Member States present will continue their efforts to get clearance and funding from all concerned authorities of their governments for the implementation of the Project.*
- *Prof. T.S. Murthy, Project Leader will modify the management structure of the project and the relevant parts of the appendices in view of the discussion and submit them to the Member States and international and regional organizations concerned.*
- *The Pre-Project Manager in consultation with the Project Leader Prof. T.S. Murthy will provide the profiles of the consultants in the relevant sections of the proposal and submit them to Member States and IOC, WMO and UNESCO.*
- *Member States and regional organizations will identify a Coordinator (Focal Point) and intimate with full details (name, address, organization, fax, telephone, e-mail) to the PPM and IOC/WMO/UNESCO.*
- *The PPM will approach regional offices of international funding agencies seeking financial support to the Project and inform regularly the Member States and IOC, WMO, IHP of the results of his negotiations. IOC, WMO, IHP of UNESCO, as well as Member States to consider ways of providing financial assistance to the PPM in implementing his responsibilities.*

- *IOC, WMO, IHP and Member States will take further action in negotiating with funding agencies based on the information provided by the PPM in order to have a clear cut picture of possible sources of funding.*
- *The PPM, Prof. T.S. Murthy, IIT Delhi and IMD (Indian Meteorological Department) in consultation with the IOC, WMO and UNESCO will prepare and publish a brochure on the project proposal.*
- *Member States and IOC, WMO and UNESCO will publicize the project through their web sites.*

PROGRESS MADE BY THE PPM

5. Following the regional meeting, the PPM with the support from IIT Delhi, modified the project proposal in the light of the additional inputs from the regional meeting. A copy of the proposal was sent to the concerned Member States.

6. The PPM approached the World Bank, UNDP, ADB, DFID, EC and representatives of donor countries such as USA, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden and Denmark located in Delhi. Most of them appreciated the proposal but sought to know the commitments and approvals from the governments of each of the member countries involved in the project. This was duly provided to the member countries for follow up at their end.

7. The PPM also prepared for each Member State, physical and financial components, the details of which are not available in the project proposal. Tables showing the break down of local and international expenditure were sent to member countries to enable them to seek approval for the project, particularly for local funding.

8. IOC and the PPM also requested Member States to obtain the names of their coordinator/focal point. Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Pakistan responded. The PPM prepared a draft brochure and gave it to IOC for comments, modification and publication.

9. The present PPM attends to the pre-project activities in addition to the responsibility in implementing and managing his own government programmes. As the task involves an important workload and needs a dedicated and exclusive effort in order not to lose time in implementation of the project, IOC, IHP of UNESCO and WMO may consider identifying a suitable officer who can attend to the work exclusively, on a full time basis.

PRESENTATION AT IOCINDIO-III

10. The PPM reported to the third Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (February 2000), on the progress made in pursuing the implementation of the plan of action as authorized by the regional meeting. He presented responses from some international funding agencies he approached seeking their interest in funding the regional project. He also invited Member States present to take actions on the plan of action as approved by the regional meeting.

11. The Regional Committee congratulated the Pre-Project Manager and the Secretariat on the progress achieved and expressed its strong support to the project, considering it as the main regional activity in reducing natural disasters.

12. The Regional Committee endorsed the need for consolidating efforts at the national and regional levels and for providing support to the project. In this regard, the Regional Committee adopted Recommendation IOCINDIO-III.2 as presented at the end of this document.

PRESENTATION AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF WMO/ESCAP PANEL ON TROPICAL CYCLONES

13. On the advice of the Executive Secretary of IOC, the PPM attended the Twenty-seventh Session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, from 29 February to 4 March 2000 in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. The PPM briefed the Panel about the progress on the pre-project activities and the deliberations at IOCINDIO-III.

14. The PPM informed the Panel of the responses he received from funding agencies, particularly the pre-requisite approval to the project by each of the participating member countries and to the national, financial and physical commitments.

15. The Panel urged the Member States to take immediate action to:

- Nominate their national coordinators and inform details of addresses to the PPM, ESCAP, IHP, IOC and WMO by 1 April 2000;
- Seek approval of their governments for the Project, including national commitments;
- Submit the project proposal to potential funding agencies and donor countries in line with the procedures described in Recommendation IOCINDIO-III.2 and through the appropriate government channels.
- Send a copy of the correspondence sent to funding agencies and donor countries to PPM, ESCAP, IHP, IOC and WMO.

16. The Panel greatly appreciated the efforts of the PPM and suggested that Australia and Finland might also be approached for financial support. The Panel felt that as the estimated cost of the proposal is high, particularly as financial assistance is being sought as grants, the possibilities of approaching multiple funding agencies for different components is to be explored. It also felt that the possibility of entrusting the implementation of some of the components to specialized firms should be explored.

17. The Representative of the IOC-WMO Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology expressed overall support to the Storm Surge Project and informed the Panel that JCOMM expertise would be made available for its implementation. The Panel expressed its appreciation for the support of JCOMM to the project.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

18. The Executive Council will note the progress made in the pre-project activities and urge the Member States to speed up the actions and commence the implementation of the project.

19. The Executive Council will invite WMO to take expeditious actions and urge the concerned Member States to speed up the completion of all governmental procedures for the implementation of the proposal.

20. The Executive Council may wish to express concern about the low level of participation and interest of IHP of UNESCO in the project and invite IHP to become a full and active partner.

21. IOC, IHP of UNESCO and WMO will make appeals to the funding agencies and will furnish all possible support to the PPM in the implementation of pre-project activities.

Recommendation IOCINDIO-III.2

STORM SURGE PROJECT

The IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean,

Noting the conclusions of the IOC-WMO Regional Meeting on Storm Surges in the Northern Indian Ocean and the progress achieved in the implementation of its decisions,

Emphasizing that the availability of external financial support is crucial for the implementation of the regional project,

Reaffirming that IOC should continue its support to the project,

Urging Member States concerned to contribute to the project implementation within the context of government policies,

Recommends the following steps be implemented urgently:

- a) Each Member State interested in the implementation of the project, through the Heads of National Weather Service and the National Ocean Service, unless a Member State identifies another agencies as more suitable for their needs, will submit to their Ministry of Finance or another appropriate agency, a letter recommending that the Storm Surge proposal be given high national priority. Appended to the letter will be a copy of the project proposal. This should be done in a coordinated way to ensure that all requests of participating Member States reach the identified funding agencies at approximately the same time.
- b) The letter from the Ministry of Finance or another appropriate agency, with the Appendix will be submitted to the World Bank and other funding agencies.
- c) The letter submitted to the funding agencies by each Member State will explicitly identify the intention of the Member State to fully cooperate with all other Member States identified in the project proposal in accordance with the protocols identified therein. The letter should emphasize the readiness to provide required national contributions.
- d) The IOC Regional Office in Perth will work with the pre-project manager to identify appropriate funding agencies to whom the proposal should be sent.
- e) The IOC Secretariat in Paris will draft a letter of endorsement for a joint signature by IOC, IHP (UNESCO) and WMO. This letter will be sent to the funding agencies to demonstrate support for the project and to express the intention of the UN agencies to work fully with the countries involved to ensure success.

Urges the Executive Secretary IOC to bring this recommendation to the IOC and IOCINDIO focal points in the countries concerned and to the Heads of WMO, and IHP of UNESCO.